

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 303780
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 303780

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 9549 ACTION SECSTATE 21 DEC 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 9549

NODIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO TEHRAN

REF STATE 302568

1. EVEN THOUGH KING HAS NOT YET RETURNED, BOTH
IRANIAN AMBASSADOR AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN WERE
IN TOUCH WITH ME ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES REFTEL.

2. MID-MORNING DECEMBER 21 HASSAN CALLED AND
ASKED ME TO SEE HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I DID

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AND HE TOLD ME IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HAD JUST BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH HIM TO SAY THAT SHAH WAS INVITING
KING TO COME TO TEHRAN DECEMBER 30, ONE DAY IN
ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL. KING WOULD
HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH
HAD BEEN AGREED TO. I TOLD HASSAN I HAD SIMILAR
INFORMATION IN A CABLE WHICH I HAD JUST RECEIVED.

3. HASSAN ASKED ABOUT PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ASAD AND I PASSED ON TO HIM GENERAL INFORMATION PARA 3, TELLING HIM IN ADDITION THAT KING'S ADVICE HAD BEEN TAKEN GENERALLY INTO ACCOUNT IN TERMS OF DEALING WITH ASAD AND THAT KING'S WISHES TO MEET IN TEHRAN HAD BEEN ALSO FAVORABLY CONSIDERED.

4. I THEN SAW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR. HE TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM TEHRAN AND READ ME AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT. THE CABLE INDICATED IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS HE HAD MADE TO CROWN PRINCE HASSAN (ABOVE) THE FACT THAT THE U.S. DID NOT "THINK IT APPROPRIATE" AT THIS TIME TO MEET WITH ASAD IN TEHRAN. FURTHER, IT SAID THERE WOULD BE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN TEHRAN THAT SHAH WAS INVITING HUSSEIN IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A MEETING BETWEEN HUSSEIN AND THE PRESIDENT. IRANIAN ASKED ME ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SHAH'S INVITING ASAD TO COME TO TEHRAN. HE SAID IRAN STILL HAD CONSIDERABLE ASSETS IN SYRIA WHICH MIGHT HELP WITH SUCH A MEETING. EARLIER HASSAN TOLD ME IRANIAN HAD ALLUDED TO FACT THAT IRAN MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO ASSIST SYRIA FINANCIALLY, THEREBY DISPLACING ASSISTANCE WHICH IRAN BELIEVES LIBYA IS PROVIDING
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TO ASAD. I TOLD IRANIAN THAT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE WAS CLEARLY EXTREMELY CROWDED, THAT HUSSEIN HAD PRIORITY, AND THAT WE HAD TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT NOT CREATING AN IMPRESSION THAT SOME KIND OF A SUMMIT WAS TAKING PLACE WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE PRESIDENT SADAT. IRANIAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT AND THOUGHT THAT ASAD WOULD BE WILLING TO COME ALMOST ANYWHERE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT AND WOULD FIND IT HARD TO TURN DOWN U.S. SUGGESTION.

5. HE ASKED IF WE WERE APPROACHING ASAD DIRECTLY AND I SAID YES. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE TOLD ME HE HAS CARRIED OUT SEVERAL SPECIAL MISSIONS FOR THE SHAH IN CONTACTING ASAD DIRECTLY AND RATHER FANCIED HIMSELF AS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM, THROUGH THE SHAH'S INITIATIVE, BY GETTING ASAD AND PRESIDENT CARTER TOGETHER. HE SEEMED COMPLETELY RECONCILED HOWEVER TO WHAT IS HAPPENING AND THOUGHT IT WOULD ALL WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.

6. I WILL OF COURSE BE SEEING HUSSEIN ON THIS AND OTHER PERTINENT MATTERS AS SOON AFTER HE RETURNS

AS I CAN ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT BUT THOUGHT YOU
SHOULD HAVE A FEELING ON WHERE THINGS STAND FOR
THE MOMENT.

7. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT TEHRAN, CAIRO
FOR AMBASSADOR AND ATHERTON, AND WHITE HOUSE FOR
DR. BRZEZZINSKI.
PICKERING.
UNQUOTE VANCE".

SECRET

NNN

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